

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 113528

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, UK, US, BTRD

SUBJECT: US/UK TALKS ON LATIN AMERICA:CUBA

1. DURING APRIL 28 TALKS WITH BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE ROWLANDS RAISED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS QUESTIONS ON CUBA. ROWLANDS INQUIRED DIRECTLY WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS US WAS CONTEMPLATING TAKING AGAINST CUBA SHOULD CUBAN INTERVENTION CONTINUE. ROGERS REPLIED THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES, THAT WE WERE SERIOUS, BUT THAT WE WERE NOT NOW PLANNING ANY SPECIFIC ACTION DIRECTLY AGAINST CUBA. ROWLANDS REPLIED THAT AMERICA'S ALLIES WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE SPECIFICS; THAT THE U.K. TOO WAS CONCERNED ABOUT CUBA'S BEHAVIOR. BUT HMG HOPED THAT THE US GOV. WAS NOT FALLING BACK ON OLD METHODS OF DEALING WITH CUBA.

2. THERE ENSUED A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FIDEL, THE INGREDIENTS IN THE CUBAN DECISION TO INTERVENE AND THE ROLE OF THE SOVIETS. ROGERS DISCUSSED

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IN THIS CONTEXT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC

ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FIDEL WAS OPERATING, SAYING THAT FIDEL SHOULD REALIZE THAT THERE ARE REAL COSTS IN EUROPE AND IN LATIN AMERICA TO THE AFRICAN ADVENTURES.

3. ROWLANDS SAID THAT THE U.K. WAS ABOUT TO SIGN NEW AGREEMENT WITH CUBA ON COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SIMILAR TO AGREEMENTS ALREADY SIGNED WITH CUBA BY SEVERAL OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS. ROWLANDS OPINED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT SURELY COUNTED FOR VERY LITTLE WITH THE CUBANS AND THAT IT WAS USEFUL FOR HMG TO KEEP OPEN CHANNELS TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT. ROGERS

AGREED THAT PERHAPS THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH AND THAT THE BRITISH REPORTS OF THEIR CONTACTS WITH FIDEL AND OTHERS HAD BEEN USEFUL. HE THEN TOLD ROWLANDS THAT A PROLONGED DELAY IN SIGNING SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE HELPFUL IN COMMUNICATING TO

FIDEL THE COSTS OF HIS ACTIONS IN AFRICA. ROWLANDS ASKED WHETHER THE US WAS ASKING THE U.K. TO DELAY SIGNING. ROGERS SAID THAT IT WAS OF COURSE A U.K. DECISION BUT YES, WE THOUGHT A PROLONGED STALLING COULD ADD TO AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FIDEL WOULD FEEL SOME ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURE. ROWLANDS WITH OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE US SUGGESTION UNDER ADVISEMENT. COMMENT: ROWLANDS WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE DIRECTNESS AND FORCEFULNESS OF OUR SUGGESTION.

4. ACTION EMBASSY LONDON: THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO FOLLOW UP AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME WITH ROWLANDS OR EDMONDS ON THIS POINT . FYI YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE ARE PLANNING NEXT WEEK DURING US/JAPAN TALKS ON LATIN AMERICA TO ASK THE JAPANESE TO SLOW UP ON SOME CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CUBANS. WE WILL ALSO BE APPROACHING THER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE OVER COMING MONTHS TO HELP SEND SOME SIGNALS TO CUBA ON ECONOMIC AND TRADE MATTERS.END FYI KISSINGER

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